

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated July 1, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to the points of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that in addition to the Supplemental IDS received October 7, 2002, which has been reviewed by the Examiner, several other IDS's have been submitted for the pending application. The Supplemental IDS's are dated (1) May 3, 2002, (2) October 2, 2003, and December 12 2003. **The Examiner is kindly requested to return initialed copies of the respective PTO Forms 1449 for these IDS's.**

Claims 5-7, 11-17, 21-24 and 26-30 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 18 are cancelled above.

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over US Patent Application No. 2003/0151412 (Gregory). Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, and 11-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Gregory, in view of JP 404034379. Claims 27-30 have been allowed. The Examiner further indicated that Claims 5-7, 10, 15-17, 21-24 and 26 contain allowable subject matter.

1. Claims 5, 6 and 7:

The Examiner objected to Claims 5-7 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 5 was previously rewritten in independent form, and Claims 6 and 7 depend from Claim 5. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5-7 are in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 11, 12, 13 and 14:

Claims 11-14 were previously amended to depend from Claim 5. Applicants respectfully submit that as Claims 11-14 depend from allowable Claim 5, these Claims are also allowable for at least the reasons presented in Applicants' previous response dated April 15, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 11-14 over the cited art be withdrawn.

3. Claims 15, 16 and 17:

The Examiner objected to Claims 15-17 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 15 was previously rewritten in independent form, and Claims 16 and 17 depend from Claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 15-17 are in condition for allowance.

4. Claims 21-23:

The Examiner objected to Claims 21-23 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 21 was previously rewritten in independent form, and Claims 22 and 23 depend from Claim 21. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 21-23 are in condition for allowance.

5. Claims 24 and 26:

The Examiner objected to Claims 24 and 26 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 24 was previously rewritten in independent form, and Claim 26 depends from Claim 24. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 24 and 26 are in condition for allowance.

6. Claims 27, 28, 29 and 30:

The Examiner indicated that Claims 27-30 are allowed.

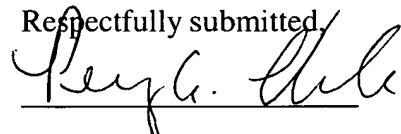
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, namely Claims 5-7, 11-17, 21-24 and 26-30 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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July 17, 2004
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